

SHORTER NOTES.

HIBISCUS OCULIROSEUS Britton. — As there has been some doubt expressed * concerning the specific distinctness of the white-flowered or crimson-eyed swamp mallow and the swamp rose mallow, † an additional record of observations as to the former coming true from seed may not be amiss. ‡

Seed from plants of each species, collected in the autumn of 1905 from plants growing side by side in the herbaceous grounds of the New York Botanical Garden, were sown under glass, germinated, and grew into vigorous plants by the time the weather permitted of their transplanting into the open, where they flowered late this season. These flowers and the resultant capsules showed that each species comes true from seed, that is to say, the progeny of the plant with the clear rose-colored petals, *Hibiscus Moscheutos* L., produced flowers of the same color, which in turn resulted in the corresponding characteristic globose-ovoid, bluntish capsules; likewise, the progeny of *Hibiscus oculiroseus* had white petals with deep crimson bases, followed by the appropriate ovoid-conic long-pointed capsules. There were, however, several plants of the *Hibiscus Moscheutos* seedlings that differed from the species, as they had rose-colored petals with deep-crimson bases and capsules that were intermediate in form, evidently representing a natural hybrid of the two species. It is hoped that these plants will produce fertile seed in another season, the resulting progeny of which should be of considerable interest.

J. A. SHAFER.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

HOW BRESADOLA BECAME A MYCOLOGIST. § — Abbé G. Bresadola, the distinguished mycologist of Trient, in the Tyrol, was born in the Vâle di Sole and educated at Rovereto and Trient.

* Am. Botanist 7: 37, 95.

† Jour. N. Y. Bot. Garden 4: 219.

‡ Am. Botanist 7: 75. Jour. N. Y. Bot. Garden 4: 220.

§ This story was related by Bresadola himself during a recent visit of the author at his home.

During his school days he had acquired some knowledge of flowering plants, but later decided to study mosses; so he went off to the mountains to make field studies and start a collection of these plants.

In the mountains he fell in with two Capucin monks, who were gathering fungi of various kinds in quantity for the table. They said that an old monk of their order had taught them, from a certain book he had written on the subject, to distinguish the good from the bad, and that they therefore ate a great many species with impunity. Bresadola became much interested, and, forgetting the mosses he had planned to study, began collecting fungi and making notes upon them in the field as the monks dictated.

On returning from the field, however, and looking over the specimens, he found many conflicting statements in his notes, and many species, and even genera and families, thrown together under the same name. When the attention of the monks was called to these discrepancies, they replied that lamellae, pores, spines, etc., were only minor and unimportant distinctions; but they finally agreed, upon his earnest solicitation, to show him their precious volume and let him see for himself how great was his ignorance in these matters. The precious "original" volume proved to be merely a poor synopsis of Venturi's "*Studi Micologiche*"; a fact which the monks strenuously denied, even after he brought the true original and showed it to them. They really knew practically nothing about mushrooms, and had by mere luck, on more than one occasion, escaped death from poisoning.

"In this way," said Bresadola, "I became a mycologist, and I have never regretted it."

WILLIAM A. MURRILL.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

A NEW SPECIES OF MONOTROPSIS. — The mountain region of western North Carolina contains rare plants, some of which have never been described or catalogued. Michaux found the *Shortia galacifolia* in 1788, and after being lost sight of for nearly 100 years it was rediscovered by collectors of medical plants near Marion in 1877.

Some three years ago quantities of a species of a *Monotropsis* which had not been noticed in any flora were found by Miss E. A. Lehman, on the Blue Ridge 17 miles from Elkin, N. C. Miss Lehman consulted various botanical experts, but none had ever seen it; and the general impression appeared to be that it was a late-blooming form of *Monotropsis odorata* or *Schweinitzia*, which was named in the honor of the Salem botanist and mycologist. This could not be correct, for Rev. Lewis D. de Schweinitz's record described the *Schweinitzia* in the following words "very rare — blooming early in February or March, color pink and white, very fragrant like the violet."

***Monotropsis Lehmanae* sp. nov.**

Stems not more than 6–8 cm. high, color brownish-purple with occasional pink, succulent, glabrous; scales several, ovate, more numerous at the base of the scape; flowers odorless, clustered, 6–8, more or less nodding, pinkish and tinged with white; calyx subtended by 2–3 bracts, slightly toothed, upper bract ovate, acute and much larger than the one or two lower ones; sepals oblong-lanceolate, acute, sometimes notched or toothed at the base; corolla saccate, lobes 5-cleft, inflexed, whitish at the base, about one-half the length of the sepals or a little more; stamens 10, filaments glabrous; disk 10–12 crenate; ovary globose, 5-celled; style short; stigma 5-angled.

The plants were found in dark shady rhododendron thickets at Roaring Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The plant is morphologically different from the sweet pine-sap, as the campanulate corolla is but half the length of the sepals, and the lobes are more deeply divided. The color of the plant is different; and the flowers, which are scentless, never appear until about the 20th of September or later. This interesting plant is named in honor of the discoverer, Miss E. A. Lehman, of Winston-Salem, who has furnished notes on the species and deposited specimens in the herbarium of the New York State Museum.

STEWART H. BURNHAM.

ALBANY, N. Y.

A NEW DWARF BLACKBERRY. — This blackberry, which grows at a good altitude, is one of the most interesting and distinct that

I have found, having many of the characteristics of a high blackberry, yet a dwarf. I propose to name it

Rubus abbrevians, sp. nov. Plants with very broad leaflets, large flowers, round stems, numerous weak prickles and moderately glandular-hairy.

New canes. — Stems erect, 1 to 2 feet high, stout, red, eventually terete but somewhat angled at first, without pubescence but with many red-glanded hairs. Prickles numerous, 25 to the inch of stem, slender with weak points, set at random with a slight backward slant, unequal in size, shading to glanded hairs. Leaves about 6 inches long by 5 inches wide, 5-foliolate, dark-green above with a few hairs and slightly lighter and quite pubescent or even velvety below, or on some plants not typical, nearly glabrous. Leaflets very broad, greatly overlapping each other, short-pointed, rather coarsely and sharply serrate-dentate, outline otherwise entire; the middle leaflet nearly orbicular, sometimes slightly cordate, the side ones two-thirds as wide as long, and the basal slightly narrower in proportion. Petiole and petiolules grooved above, without pubescence, the prickles weak, numerous and recurved, glanded hairs stout and abundant; the petiolule of the middle leaflet 0.5 inch long, those of the side ones very short, the basal leaflets sessile.

Old canes. — Erect; prickles and glandular hairs considerably impaired; appearance pyramidal. Growth of second year entirely of leafy branches, one from the axil of each old leaf; these increasing in length from the top downward, 6 to 12 inches long, the lowest often without inflorescence, the others tipped with a short raceme; the axis of each branch zigzag, terete, sparingly glandular and villose, with weak prickles. Leaves resembling those on new canes, similar in color, texture and pubescence, more coarsely serrate-dentate, 3-foliolate approaching 5-foliolate, some 5-foliolate. Leaflets short-pointed, the middle one three-fourths as wide as long, the side ones tending to separate into two leaflets, more or less divided, sometimes parted. Petiole and petiolules grooved above, pubescence coarse, glanded hairs numerous and unequal, prickles weak; the middle leaflet short-stalked, the others sessile. Large, broad unifoliolate leaves at the base of the inflorescence, often tending to be trifoliolate. Inflorescence a short raceme 2 inches long, pubescent and glandular, with 8 to 12 rather short and slender pedicels set at a moderate angle to the axis, subtended by rather large, often leaf-like bracts. Flowers showy with broad petals two-thirds as wide as long; spread of flower 1.25 inches. Fruit

short-cylindric, 0.33 to 0.5 inch long, sweet and abundant; drupelets large and black. Flowers the middle of June, fruit ripe the middle of August.

The only stations yet found are on Stephens Hill (type) in the northern part of Windham, in Windham County, Vermont, at an altitude of about 2,000 feet, and in Grafton, Vermont, in the road from Grafton to Londonderry, one mile west of Houghtonville, at an altitude of 1,500 feet, the stations being about four miles apart.

I discovered the Windham station for this species in 1903, and in 1904 I made a careful study of it, visiting it many times. It covers at least an acre in a rather dry sheep-pasture to the entire exclusion of other blackberries, though scrub spruces threaten to injure it. It is a profuse bearer and the fruit is of a fine flavor. Several times I have eaten my fill of it. Though it was such a distinct plant, yet I was loath to publish it from a single station. But after visiting it again June 22, 1905, I had the good fortune to find it the next day in Grafton. Here it is exactly the same plant, though a little larger, as it grows in a more favorable place and there is good reason to believe that it is not a mere local plant.

WILLIAM H. BLANCHARD.

WESTMINSTER, VERMONT.

REVIEWS

Rydberg's *Flora of Colorado**

Not since the "Flora of Montana," by Dr. P. A. Rydberg, appeared in 1900, has anything of comparable importance been issued upon the plants of the interior west. A flora of Colorado is essentially a flora of the Middle Rocky Mountains. The great Centennial State with its exceedingly diversified soils, extreme variation in altitudes, and great extent in latitude and longitude naturally supplies the conditions for a varied and extensive flora. Wyoming, possessing essentially these same characteristics, is equally prolific, the two floras having very much in

* Rydberg, P. A. *Flora of Colorado*. The Agricultural Experiment Station of the Colorado Agricultural College, Bulletin 100. Pp. i-xxii + 1-448. 1906.